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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that on Friday, May 6, 2005, two employees of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) were sentenced for their involvement in a scheme to sell fraudulent DMV driver's licenses.

Sharon Terry Williams, age 40, of Richmond, Virginia, a customer service representative at the DMV office located on Brook Road in Richmond, and Atallah A. Mahases, a.k.a. "Tony," age 31, also of Richmond, were both sentenced to 15 months incarceration. In addition, Williams was ordered to pay a fine of \$5,600 and Mahases to pay a \$15,000 fine. Williams and Mahases pled guilty on February 2, 2004, to conspiring to unlawfully produce and distribute DMV identification documents without lawful authority. Mahases brought persons seeking fraudulent identifications to Williams at the DMV and Williams, without authority to do so, would arrange to have false identification documents issued, in exchange for United States currency.

Also announcing the arrest are Donald Thompson, Special Agent-In-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Resident Office; Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police; Robert Childress, Special Agent-In-Charge, Social Security Administration; and Commissioner D.B. Smit, of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Special Investigations Unit.

This cases was investigated by agents of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, including investigators from the Virginia State Police, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Social Security Administration, and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Special Investigations Unit, and was prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney N. George Metcalf.

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